

**Town of Channel – Port aux Basques  
1820<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting  
March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The 1820<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of Council convened at 6:00 pm at the Central Fire Hall Mayor Spencer presiding. Present were Deputy Mayor Strickland, Councillors Battiste, Blackler, Coffin, Keeping and Lane. Also present were the Town Manager and Town Clerk. Present via Google Meet were Rene Roy, Barbara Collier and Joan Chaisson. Present at the Fire Hall was Gregory Sheaves.

**March 26<sup>th</sup> Purple Day Proclamation:** Mayor Spencer read and signed the proclamation for Purple Day in recognition of Epilepsy. Deputy Mayor Strickland thanked the Mayor for signing it.

**Condolences:** Mayor Spencer offered condolences on behalf of Council to Councillor Keeping and his family on the loss of his sister.

Mayor Spencer said he'd like to take the time to reflect on the passing of Councillor Tobin with the Town of Stephenville.

A moment of silence ensued.

**Adoption of Minutes:** It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Lane the 1819<sup>th</sup> Regular Minutes of February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 be adopted as circulated and discussed. MC Unanimously

**Dextron Unit:** The Town Manager advised the building is in a holding pattern waiting on supplies and materials.

Councillor Keeping said on the unit itself are the specs done. The Town Manager said yes they've been done for quite some time. Mr. MacIsaac also said that it won't go to tender until after the election.

**Stephenville Airport Corporation Expressions of Interest:** The Town Manager advised that Mr. Sheen, Chair of the Airport Corporation, is going to contact Councillor Coffin about when they are meeting again.

Mayor Spencer said that Sunwing is going to be operating out of Stephenville.  
Councillor Lane suggested we show our support publicly.

**Recreation Report – Ice Removal:** Mayor Spencer said we are going to Level 3 on Friday. Councillor Blackler said under this level the arena can open up but there are no team sports. It was noted that the Recreation Committee are meeting on Friday to discuss this.

**NL Power:** Councillor Lane asked if the light had been installed on LeGallais Street. The Town Manager said he signed off on the work order a few weeks ago.

Councillor Keeping said the Town Manager mentioned a couple of weeks ago that he was going to get the operators to do up a list of any street lights that are out. The Town Manager said he will do an overall plan and have them checked out.

The Town Manager noted that he thinks the pole light is put in on Hilltop Lane.

**Correspondence:** It was moved by Councillor Lane and seconded by Councillor Battiste the correspondence be accepted and dealt with where necessary. MC Unanimously

**#1 Seaview Lane Reimbursement of Repair Cost to Waterline:** Correspondence was received from the resident of #1 Seaview Lane explaining how the waterline comes into their lane and enclosing the other bill for the jack hammer. The resident noted that he had other people sign for the work as it was paid in cash on site.

The resident also noted that the promise to meet with the resident of #4 Seaview Lane was not kept.

Councillor Lane said they fell down on that with regards to meeting with the person. It was agreed that the Public Works Committee will meet with the person.

The Town Manager noted we didn't receive viable receipts. He said the resident noted cash transactions. The Town Manager said he wrote the residents explaining why we need official receipts.

Councillor Blackler asked if the issue is we are going to pay or not. Councillor Lane said no decision has been made we are waiting on the receipts before making it.

The Town Manager noted that up to date material was used. The residents should replace the black polyurethane pipe they have there or they will continue to have issues.

**College of the North Atlantic re Annual Scholarship Fund:** Correspondence was received from the College of the North Atlantic requesting Council's continued support for their scholarship and awards fund.

It was moved by Councillor Keeping and seconded by Deputy Mayor Strickland we donate \$250.00 towards this as we have in past years. MC Unanimously

**KC3 Holdings Ltd. Application for Discretionary Use 2-8 Water Street West:** An application was received from the owners of KC3 Holdings Ltd to temporarily place two shipment containers which will serve as a testing lab for rock samples taken from Matador Mining site.

The Town Manager advised that under the new development regulations Council has the authority to approve a discretionary use without advertising.

Councillor Keeping said in the regulations we can issue a two year temporary permit which we can cancel at any time. The Town Manager said it's not a temporary use in the plan it's a discretionary use.

Councillor Lane said he doesn't see any concerns whether temporary or not. He said he feels we need to be a little more accommodating as this could be a big thing. This company has employed a lot of people in Isle aux Morts and he's hoping they'll hire more here.

It was agreed to approve the application. The Town Manager will advise the owner.

**Provincial Weigh Scales Inspection Station:** A response was received to our correspondence to the Honourable Sarah Stoodley Minister of Digital Government and Service NL advising that the three positions currently filled at the Weigh Scale Inspection Station are full time permanent positions.

The letter also advised the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure is responsible for the maintenance of the Weigh Scale Inspection office, including the lighting concerns we highlighted on the Trans Canada Highway and the Inspection Station lot itself. It is their understanding the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure is aware of our concerns.

Councillor Lane asked if they have been contacted since we received the letter. The Town Manager said yes they have, their issue with the lighting is budget constraints. Right now the priority with lighting is the parking lot. The Town Manager said he indicated to them to contact our MHA.

Councillor Keeping asked if they indicated about the scales. The Town Manager said the scales will be done March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Councillor Lane said he recommends we contact our MHA to see if he can put some pressure on them to get these lights repaired.

The Town Manager said they referred him to two other individuals who indicated funding and personnel are not available to do this work.

Councillor Battiste asked if they always had three (3) fulltime employees. The Town Clerk advised there was always four (4) fulltime employees there.

**Crown Lands License Situated at Grand Bay West:** Correspondence was received from Fisheries, Forestry & Agriculture in reference to the renewal of Crown Lands License #120193 situated at Grand Bay West.

Upon reviewing our request it has been determined that the trail approved under the license is dramatically different than that established on the ground. For this reason, Crown Lands requires an amendment to the licence to include the development that has taken place on the ground but not covered under the license.

The Department advises us to submit a completed Crown Lands Application along with a receipt of an application fee of \$172.50. The purpose of the application will be an amendment to existing License #120193. With this in mind, an illegal occupation fee of \$1,000.00 will be required.

The Town Manager said they are referencing the full section of Grand Bay West Trail from the last time the license was renewed is the section from Lomond's barn over to the end.

Councillor Keeping suggested we contact the MHA and discuss this with him regarding the fine.

Councillor Lane said the Town Clerk should gather all the documentation of projects we've had over there to show that the government approved funds for the trail so why didn't they ask for proof we had the license.

**Public Works Report:** Councillor Keeping presented the Public Works Committee Report of February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.

**#1 Parking Issues In Area of Access Ramp Along Grand Bay Road:** The Committee discussed this issue and reviewed the layout drawings for this area. There are still the same number of parking spaces available as in previous years.

The Town Manager said he wrote the individuals and provided a diagram of before and after showing the exact same number of spots.

**#2 #68 Grand Bay Road:** The Committee discussed ongoing issues the resident has. Given the weather conditions and the amount of snow we've had it's hard to assess at this time. The Town Manager will arrange a meeting with the resident for a time that is suitable to him. The Town Manager noted that there is rainfall forecasted for this week.

**#3 Old Quarry Isle aux Morts Road:** The Committee had planned on visiting the site but weather conditions weren't suitable. The discussions were in relation to armour stone for the back road and also Vardy's Island proposal project. The Committee will table a report in future meetings.

**#4 Construction of New Salt/Sand Shed:** Discussion took place on a new salt shed in relation to possibly some new funding initiatives that may come up on the horizon.

**#5 Grand Bay West Causeway:** The Committee discussed the washout along the causeway. The Town Manager will have the Works Superintendent to do up a cost for 4" or 6" stone for the spring.

**#6 Buildings at Former Waste Management Site:** The Committee discussed the buildings at the former waste management site. They looked at ways and means to dismantle and reuse them at another site.

The Committee recommends the project be considered for upcoming funding programs.

Deputy Mayor Strickland asked what size the building was. Councillor Keeping said approximately 30' x 60'.

The Town Manager said they were looking at possibly using this for storage of our loader tires and other equipment.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Strickland and seconded by Councillor Lane the Public Works Committee Report of February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 be accepted as presented and discussed. MC Unanimously

**Snow Clearing:** Councillor Lane said he's somewhat confused about snow clearing. He knows we are piling snow and some pretty high but this is a safety issue with kids climbing these embankments. He also noted that the bus shelters aren't cleaned out.

The Town Manager said the bus shelters and fire hydrants are done once the roads are opened up. Mr. MacIsaac said to do so before then would only cause them to be plowed in again when the roads are being done.

Councillor Lane said last year we had a meeting about excavators knocking down the snow. He said we talked about alternate areas for example in Grand Bay moving it from one area to another. He also noted that we are piling up by the church which should have been taken down Channel. Councillor Lane suggested we open an area at the intersection by Cox Avenue. He asked if we had plans to look at this. Councillor Lane asked if we have an excavator that can knock down these banks of snow. The Town Manager advised no we only a mini excavator.

The Town Manager read out stats on the recent snow falls and winds we had. He noted that the reason we have snow clearing markers in push off areas is the plows can't go past that point or they could end up in the water.

The Town Manager said we have lost a lot of snow dumping areas than the main sites get piled up too much. Unfortunately we have no choice but to bring in excavators to knock these piles down.

Councillor Lane said regarding Bay Street and LeGrow we should move the rocks at the park to allow for more room to dump. Mayor Spencer said you can't move the rocks because the ground there will get torn up.

Councillor Lane said in future we should consider over a time to look at all sites to have more push off areas. He said another area is the base which can be used to stock pile. The Town Manager said we always stock pile it there.

Councillor Keeping said he can understand the push off areas on the water because of snow breaking away but he can't understand us knocking it down up by the school. He said when he saw the excavator cast snow on top and then go on top and cast it again he couldn't believe it. Councillor Keeping said we had a window of five days of good weather so we should have had our loaders move it to another area. Councillor Keeping said the superintendent should see this.

**Waste Management Fee Structure:** The Town Manager advised in regards to the recent changes to the waste management fee structure in order for this to be enacted under the Municipalities Act it has to be adopted by April 1<sup>st</sup> and is in effect as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

It was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Deputy Mayor Strickland that as per Section 101 (1) of the Municipalities Act, 1999 the following fees for Waste Management shall come into effect for April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. MC Unanimously

**Class I Residential** – every owner of residential property, containing less than three (3) dwelling units, shall pay a collection fee of **\$13.33/month. (Unchanged at \$160.00 Annually)**

**Class II Residential** – every property owner of residential property, containing three (3) or more dwelling units, (i.e. apartment building), shall pay a collection fee of **\$13.33/month/dwelling unit. (\$160.00 annually per dwelling unit). An apartment building is defined as a building with three or more dwelling units, but does not include a row dwelling.**

**Class I Commercial** – every owner of commercial property, such as a small business or enterprise which produces less than 10 bags of waste/week, shall pay a collection fee of **\$13.33/month. (Unchanged at \$160.00 Annually)** *Small business shall be considered a small, independent, locally owned and operated business “Mom & Pop Shop” that has a minimum amount of employees, has only a small amount of business volume, is typically not franchised, therefore open for business only in a single location.*

**Class II Commercial** – every owner of commercial property, such as a small business or enterprise which produces 10-15 bags of waste/week, shall pay a collection fee of **\$26.66/month. (\$320.00 annually)**

**Class III Commercial** – every owner of commercial property, such as a mid-sized business or enterprise which produces 15-30 bags of waste/week, shall pay a collection fee of **\$39.99/month. (\$480.00 annually)**

**Class IV Commercial** - every owner of commercial property, such as a mid sized to larger business or enterprise which produces 30-60 bags of waste/week, shall pay a collection fee of **\$53.32/month. (\$640.00 annually)**

**Private Parks/Campgrounds** - every owner of a private RV park and/or Campground, which produces in excess of 100 bags of waste/week, shall pay a collection fee of **\$2500.00 annually** and is to be reviewed by the Marine Mountain Zone Waste Management Committee on an annual basis.

**Government and/or Educational** - every owner of Government and/or Educational property, such as large businesses or educational buildings, shall pay a fee of **\$1000.00 annually** and is to be reviewed by the Marine Mountain Zone Waste Management Committee on an annual basis.

**Institutional** - every owner of institutional property, such as seniors' homes or care facilities, shall pay a fee of **\$7500.00 annually** and is to be reviewed by the Marine Mountain Zone Waste Management Committee on an annual basis. *An institution means a building or part thereof occupied or used by persons who require special care or treatment because of age, mental or physical limitations or medical conditions.*

The Marine Mountain Zone Waste Management Committee wishes to advise that the noted Waste Management collection fee structure shall come into effect on April 01, 2021. Should a current commercial customer elect not to have waste collected from their location and pay the associated fee, **they shall notify MMZWMC via the Town of Channel – Port Aux Basques in writing by March 01, 2021.** Any commercial business who elects to collect their own waste are required to take their material to the Transfer Station on the TCH and pay the applicable tonnage fee directly to WRWM. Should any property experience a vacancy for an extended period of time, which would affect the amount of waste collected, an application shall be made for consideration for a year end adjustment to the applicable rate.



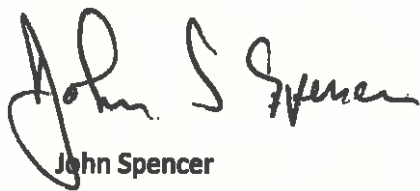
**Urban Municipalities Committee (UMC) Report:** Deputy Mayor Strickland reported on the highlights of an UMC meeting he attended on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 via Zoom.

- MNL Staff are still working from home;
- Infrastructure only lasts 1/3 of the years of the life expectancy.
- Detra Walsh reported that the Waste Water Regulations deadline has been extended to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Deputy Mayor Strickland said Ms. Walsh informed them some communities are still not monitoring. He asked if we were. The Town Clerk advised yes we submit quarterly reports.
- Brad Power spoke on the Coop Program. Deputy Mayor Strickland asked if we were involved in this. The Town Clerk advised yes we are.
- COVID Update – Town Workers and/or firefighters are not Priority 1 for vaccinations.
- Municipalities are still supposed to be able to function in pandemic mode.
- There was a lengthy discussion on fireworks in the Province; the ease to purchase, fireworks being able to be put off whenever you want. There are talks of a Province wide ban but this would be a provincial issue.
- Municipal Election 2021 – the statement was made there will be an election. Discussion was had around mail in voting and delaying the election. Plan A Can we have a safe election? Plan for worst case scenario if we are still at Level 5; talked about not getting enough people to run; It is predicted that 60% of towns will not be having an election; Brad Power at MNL can supply ballot boxes and floor stickers.
- RCMP – this was brought forward by Bonivista; there have been a lot of cutbacks and financial constraints put in place; we are the only province in Canada where municipalities don't contribute towards the cost of policing. The Province pays 70% but there is no extra money to hire more officers; there were talks of how the RNC could possibly contribute more.
- Marine Atlantic ferry rates – Mayor Spencer asked to have that on the agenda; Mayor Spencer joined the meeting. It was decided that MNL will send out a template letter to all the communities asking them to forward it to the Minister of Transport.
- Mental Health for Council during COVID – Deputy Mayor Strickland asked if the Town's policy for EAP covers Councillors. The Town Clerk said she wasn't sure but would check it out.

Mayor Spencer noted MNL is calling for resolutions for the Annual General Meeting which will be held virtually.

Councillor Keeping noted MP Jack Harris presentation in the House of Commons proves we are finally getting it out there. Mayor Spencer said the next two weeks are critical. There is a letter from the NL Caucus being presented to the Minister of Transport.

**Adjournment:** With no further business it was moved by Councillor Battiste and seconded by Councillor Coffin the meeting be adjourned at 7:28 pm.



John Spencer  
Mayor



Julia Ingram  
Town Clerk